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Edward Timmer

Reg. No. 46,248

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GAC/3751



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Fine et al.

Application No.: 09/762,000

Filed: 1/17/2001

Title: HOT WATER FAUCET LOCK

Attorney Docket No.: 20-073-JF

Group Art Unit: 3751

Examiner: Phillips, Charles E.

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COPY OF PAPERS
ORIGINALLY FILED

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR CORRECTION OF THE INFORMALITY

Dear Sir:

The Applicant, by his attorneys, hereby responds to an Office communication dated April 23, 2002, to correct the informality in the above-referenced application.

The informality in need of correction lies in the fact that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is lacking a readable copy of Applicant's Response to an Office Action. The Office Action in question was dated October 15, 2001, and was responded to by Applicant in a Response deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail on December 6, 2001.

However, at a later date, Applicant's attorneys learned that the Response filed on December 6, 2001, was destroyed in an irradiation process at the mail facility used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Therefore, Applicant's attorneys faxed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office a copy of the Response on April 3, 2002. Applicant's attorneys were later informed that this fax was unreadable. In response, Applicant's attorneys re-faxed the Response to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on April 16, 2002. However, on April 29, 2002, Applicant's attorneys received the latest communication from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, dated April 23, 2002, (Paper No. 7) notifying Applicant that the latest fax of the Response was unreadable and requesting a submission of a clean and readable copy of the Response within a one month period.

Therefore, Applicant, by his attorneys, hereby submits the following documents and papers:

X A copy of the Response to an Office Action, which Response was deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 6, 2001. (13 pages)

A copy of the Amendment Transmittal Letter dated December 5, 2001, which accompanied the aforementioned Response to an Office Action. (1 page)

Appointment of Associate Attorney Form, being hereby submitted for the first time to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in this application. (1 page)

Return Receipt Postcard.

Respectfully submitted,

04/30/2002
Date

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